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30 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : Your Memorandum of 29 November 1955
re: Suppliers' Meeting

1. In response to your subject memorandum, I would like to clear up what may be a slight misunderstanding regarding my presence at the December Suppliers' Meeting. As a matter of fact, my sole reason for indicating that I would like to go was the thought that by so doing I could supply the secretariat function performed in the past by either [redacted]. If George is to go, I see no reason for my presence in Los Angeles at that time.

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2. However, there is a reason why I would very much like to go to the site, either concurrently with your visit to Los Angeles or shortly thereafter. I believe it is important for someone to see that [redacted] is introduced in proper context to the responsible people at Watertown. In view of Tom's senior responsibilities in the Base "A" contingent, I want to see that his time at Watertown initially is well spent, and that he not be simply "turned loose" on location. I had planned for him to remain there one full week, feeling that the Administrative Staff can learn much from his past experience and his on-the-spot assessment of our potential administrative/material problems.

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3. Whether Tom goes to the Suppliers' Meeting or not does not seem vital to me. I would strongly urge that he and I together have a crack at Watertown for a day or two. Another reason why I feel it highly advisable to plan on going with Tom is that I presently feel rather at a disadvantage in my dealings with [redacted] on administrative matters, due to the interval since our last discussions. Dick has been filling the air with cables on questions that would be unnecessary if we had an opportunity for more frequent discussions regarding project policies and developments. Frankly, I should like to take advantage of your anticipated presence at Watertown on 13 and 14 December to enable [redacted] and myself to sit down with you and discuss the direction we will have to move very soon on matters that involve people, places and things.

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Your time is so well-subscribed here that we seldom have time for discussion of any save the most urgent matters, and while it may be likewise at the site, I think the climate more conducive to concentration there.

4. Consequently, I would like to propose that [] and I go direct to Las Vegas on Monday, 12 December, and plan to meet you at Watertown on the 13th and 14th for the above-mentioned discussions. I would plan to leave, probably through Las Vegas, the morning of the 15th. Tom would remain at Watertown until 20 December when he would return to Headquarters. I will naturally abide by your decision regarding the necessity for the trip, either for Tom or myself, but for many reasons I feel it wise to go before the holidays.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Director of Administration

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